

STEVEN J. SHIMBERG'S DEPARTURE

• Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, this Friday, June 20, marks the last day Steven J. Shimberg will work here in the Senate as staff director and chief counsel of the Committee on Environment and Public Works. Next month, he will begin a new career with the National Wildlife Federation.

Steve Shimberg is a New York native and a magna cum laude graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo. Upon graduating from Duke University School of Law, Steve spent 3 years as a trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice's Land and Natural Resources Division before joining the staff of the Committee on Environment and Public Works in 1981.

I have been a member of the Committee since I entered the Senate in 1977. I served as the chairman or ranking minority member of the Water Resources Subcommittee from the 96th Congress through the 103d Congress, and I served as full committee chairman from September 1992 through January 1993. So, over the years, I have seen Steve shepherd through the committee enormously complicated and thoroughly bipartisan legislation to protect our natural resources. I can attest to Steve's personableness, his sense of humor and good cheer, his comity, and his utter competence. Consummately professional, always courteous, and always calm.

Environmental policy, to be supportable, must be based on sound science. And so I have argued that the committee needs more scientists and fewer lawyers on the staff. Steve certainly is an exception; he has been indispensable. While I applaud Federation officials for their astuteness in hiring Steve, I lament the loss his departure means to the committee, and to the Senate. We will miss him.

Sir Christopher Wren's tombstone reads, "Lector, si monumentum requiris circumspecte." With regard to Steve's work over the past 17 years on the committee, the products are around us all: cleaner air, cleaner water, a greatly redeemed physical and human environment.●

EXPLANATION OF VOTES ON THE NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, on Wednesday, April 10, the Senate once again turned to consideration of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. This legislation, Senate bill 104, is the latest attempt to force action on the long overdue construction of a Federal, spent nuclear waste depository. A centralized waste storage facility must be located soon if the Department of Energy [DOE] is to have any hope of fulfilling its contractual obligation to collect the spent fuel stored at over 100 facilities around the country in the next decade.

Michigan needs the DOE to fulfill this obligation. My State has four nu-

clear plants: Big Rock in Charlevoix, Fermi in Monroe, Palisades in Southaven, with 2 reactors, and DC Cook in Southaven. All four of these plants were designed with some small storage capacity, but a couple of years ago, Palisades ran out of spent fuel pool storage space. The Nuclear Waste Policy Act will mandate the removal and storage of this spent fuel at a safe, central facility.

The first amendment to S. 104 was a Reid amendment stipulating that no waste may be transported through a State without the prior written consent of that State's Governor. In effect, this amendment would have permitted any Governor to block the implementation of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act and impede the safe storage of nuclear waste. I supported, therefore, the tabling motion which passed by a 72 to 24 margin.

The Thompson amendment which was considered next sought to exempt Oak Ridge, TN, from being considered as an interim waste site should the President search for a location other than Yucca Mountain. In general, I do not like the idea of deleting from consideration particular sites without a debate on the matter. This site, however, lies in a geological zone comprised primarily of limestone bedrock that is frequently riven by shallow underground rivers. As such, the risk of contaminated waste leaking into the area's water table is too great for this site to be a reasonable replacement for the Yucca Mountain site. For that reason, I supported the Thompson amendment and it passed on a 60 to 33 vote.

The Bumpers amendment that followed was a sense of the Senate resolution stating that the Department of Energy had an unavoidable delay in its contractual obligations to begin taking possession of spent fuel in 1998. If passed, this resolution could have undermined the current lawsuit which has been filed by Michigan and 34 other States against the DOE for not taking this waste in the agreed to time. For that reason, I opposed this resolution. The great majority of my colleagues agreed with me, and the resolution failed on a 24 to 69 vote.

The next amendment, a Bingaman effort to eliminate the language to exempt Oak Ridge, TN, from consideration as an interim site, failed by a 36 to 56 margin. As I have noted, this site is not a suitable interim storage site, and I voted against the Bingaman measure.

The second Bingaman amendment which was considered sought to eliminate the default provision for designating an interim storage site. The legislation as passed gives the President the authority to declare whether Yucca Mountain is a suitable interim storage site. If the President says it is not, he has 18 months to identify a new interim site. If, however, the President does not designate another facility within that time, then Yucca Mountain becomes the interim site by default.

The Bingaman amendment would have changed this. Had it passed, the President could have rejected Yucca Mountain and then simply refused to identify another interim site. The end result would be years of lost time, millions of wasted taxpayer dollars, and a return to the present, untenable situation. I opposed the Bingaman amendment for this reason and supported the motion to table which passed 59 to 39.

The final amendments to be considered were a Domenici amendment and a Murkowski second degree amendment. The bill as written could have been considered to allow a waiver on a budget point of order. The Domenici amendment clarified and reinstated existing law, which does not permit waiving a point of order prospectively.

The Murkowski second degree to the Domenici amendment was a technical fix that capped the annual fee for each civilian nuclear powerplant at 1.0 mill per kilowatt-hour. The original provisions limiting user fees to 1.0 mill per kilowatt-hour were poorly worded. With the budgetary fix provided by the Domenici amendment, this provision was restored.

I supported the Murkowski amendment and it was adopted by a 66 to 32 vote. Shortly after, the Senate passed the Domenici amendment as modified by a voice vote.

Upon the disposition of these amendments, the Senate turned to final passage of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. Once again, I voted in favor of this important act and was pleased to see it pass by a 65 to 34 margin.●

RACE FOR THE CURE

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to express my admiration for the thousands of Americans who spent last Saturday morning running to help bring attention to breast cancer and to raise money to aid in finding a cure for this terrible disease—the leading cause of death among women ages 35 to 54. In Washington alone, more than 35,000 runners and walkers, including several members of my own staff, joined the Vice President and his wife to raise more than \$1 million for breast cancer research in the Race for the Cure. This effort is even more impressive when you consider that this race took place in 77 cities across the country. Since its inception in 1982, the Race for the Cure has raised \$45 million and funded 230 grants in basic science and clinical research, as well as education and screening projects. The incredible turnout for this event displays the widespread concern over the devastation of breast cancer.

Every 3 minutes another woman is diagnosed with breast cancer. This year alone, more than 180,000 women will struggle with this disease, and more than 44,000 women will die as a result of it. One in eight women will develop breast cancer within their lifetime, making it likely that every American will be touched in some way by this disease.